

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 DHA-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 AID-05 /076 W

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R 070632Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7248

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: PRISONERS IN WEST BANK JAILS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFF AUGUST 5, LOCAL ICRC DELEGATE PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFO IN CONFIDENCE ON PRISONERS AND CONDITIONS IN WEST BANK JAILS. HE SAID TOTAL NOW BEING HELD IN WEST BANK JAILS IS 1070. THIS IS UNUSUALLY HIGH FIGURE, DUE TO INCREASED NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN RECENT WEEKS AND TO FACT MOST COURTS NOW IN RECESS. HE ESTIMATED ABOUT 70 TO 75 PERCENT OF PRISONERS WERE ACCUSED OF SECURITY OFFENSES, MANY OF THEM RELATIVELY MINOR, SUCH AS MEMBERSHIP IN ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS. MOST OF THESE PRISONERS ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION OR AWAITING TRIAL AFTER BEING CHARGED TO SERVING SHORT TERMS.

THOSE SENTENCED TO LONG TERMS ARE NORMALLY TRANSFERRED TO PRISONS IN ISRAEL. (ABOVE FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE WEST BANKERS SERVING SENTENCES IN SUCH PRISONS.)

2. IN ADDITION TO THOSE UNDER REGULAR ARREST, SOURCE SAID THERE ARE ABOUT 30 UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION ON
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WEST BANK, I.E. BEING HELD ON SECURITY GROUNDS WITHOUT

FORMAL CHARGE OR TRIAL. THIS NUMBER HAS NOT BASICALLY CHANGED DURING PAST 6 MONTHS, HE SAID. ISRAELIS CITE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS TO HIM AS REASON DETAINEES NOT BROUGHT TO TRIAL, BUT HE ASSUMES IN SOME CASES SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE FOR COURT PRESENTATION LACKING ALTHOUGH ISRAELIS CONVINCED OF GUILT OF INDIVIDUAL.

3. GROUP OF 10 ADMINISTRATIVE DETAINEES IN NABLUS WENT ON HUNGER STRIKE ABOUT 25 DAYS AGO WHEN THEIR DETENTION WAS EXTENDED FOR A SECOND SIX-MONTH PERIOD. (SPECIAL COMMITTEE MUST REVIEW DETENTION CASES EVERY SIX MONTHS.) THEY ENDED STRIKE AUGUST 5 AFTER NABLUS MAYOR DISCUSSED ISSUED WITH DEFMIN PERES. SOURCE SAID DETAINEES HAD BEEN ACTING AS GROUP IN REQUESTING REVIEW OF CASES AND PERES SAID THEY SHOULD PETITION INDIVIDUALLY FOR REVIEW. SOURCE BELIEVES RESULT WILL BE SAME, BUT PERES "RESOLVED" PROBLEM OF HUNGER STRIKE FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST. SOURCE NOTED STRIKERS WERE VISITED BY DOCTOR DAILY AND PROPER HEALTH MEASURES TAKEN BY AUTHORITIES.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT REPORTS OF ILL TREATMENT AND TORTURE OF PRISONERS, SOURCE SAID SOME ARE UNDOUBTEDLY ROUGHED UP A BIT BUT GENERALLY DO NOT WISH TO MAKE COMPLAINT TO ICRC AND SEEM TO FEEL SUCH TREATMENT TO BE EXPECTED. CASES OF SEVERE MISTREATMENT ARE INFREQUENT: HE SAID ONLY ABOUT 5 ALLEGED CASES ON WEST BANK HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION IN PAST SIX MONTHS.

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